

Hoosier Archives was originally a periodic listing of the Diplomacy archives of Walter Buchanan, R. R. #3, Lebanon, Indiana 46052, telephone (317) 482-2824; Archives Director, Postal Diplomacy Congress, and V-P/Treas., International Diplomacy Association. It is now primarily a Diplomacy magazine devoted to articles on good play, demonstration games such as The Grudge Game (1971BC) now in progress, rating systems and game news. Information from the archives is vital for all this and is available to the public as well. Although the archives is virtually complete in at least xerox form, missing undamaged originals are solicited, either for purchase or a loan to permit xeroxing. (See the last archives listing in Hoosier Archives #53 for signs needed.) Many original spares are now available from the archives; more are solicited so as to make them available to others. A subscription to Hoosier Archives is 15/\$2.00 or 7/\$1.00; back issues are available for 15¢ apiece (20% discount for all available). Ask for #73 to get a list of all articles through #73. This is all right from publication.



INTO THE ARCHIVES NO. 40

Interest in rating systems seems to be picking up lately as can be expected now that the hobby has grown to a point where there is a large body of games to be rated and the data on them is becoming more easily accessible. However, as the following articles by Rod Walker, one of the hobby's leading ratings authorities, will show you, there is still no general consensus as to which is the best rating system. As you can see, the Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission has a lot of work out out for it!

THE ARBITRARY NATURE OF SO-CALLED "OBJECTIVE" RATING SYSTEMS by Rod Walker

Doug Beyerlein's excellent article in Hoosier Archives #74 ("A Comparison of Rating Systems") raises one point which I believe needs to be examined more closely. His analysis is generally precise and objective. However, in commenting on the Numeror rating system, he notes that it "is also very generous to other survivors," suggesting that "this is considered by some to be the major drawback of the arbitrary style ratings." It is this statement with which I take issue.

Systems such as that in Numeror (or Antares) are often called "arbitrary" because a point system is designed by the rater and applied to players. The implication of the term "arbitrary" is two fold: first, that the system is merely the personal whim of the rater and second, that the system is subjective, and hence, arbitrary. And hence, somehow, better.

In my opinion, the zero-sum systems, and particularly those which do not assign points below draw or victory (such as the ODD system or the Calhoun Point Count) are far more arbitrary and subjective than the others.

This sort of system works well in a two-player game, such as chess, where a player can only win, lose, or draw. Diplomacy, however, is a multi-player game. Between the player who was first eliminated and the player who won, there are five other levels of performance.

The presumably "objective" ODD or CPC systems reduce these five players to the level of the seventh--zilch (or worse). The philosophy behind this is the attitude that those who have not won have, by definition, lost. That is a nice semanticism, but it is an unfair and arbitrary judgment. The performances of the six players who do not win vary widely in most games; any fool can look at a supply-center chart and see that this is true. Counting a second-place finish as a "loss" is not objective, nor is it fair, nor is it reasonable. It is based on a highly subjective sort of tunnel vision which sees 7 players but conceives of only 2 results.

It may be that the points assigned to various performances are "arbitrary." In every case I have seen, they represent an honest attempt by the rater to achieve an accurate numerical appraisal of performance. The problem of quantification is always an important one, but this should be discussed, not ignored. At least rating systems based on such quantifi-

cation are making honest attempts to deal with the real situation. They are not covering up the problem with the sophistic "if you don't win, you lose" notion.

It may also be, as is sometimes said, that counting supply centers is no real way of assessing position in a game. I must agree in part, but the number of centers held is a piece of raw data which is real and solid. It is easily verifiable and is in addition self-quantifying. Whatever shortcomings this data may have, I cannot think of any available data which are better suited to the task at hand--defining who did what in a game.

The so-called "arbitrary" systems are admittedly that. However, they are also honest. They do not pretend to be other than they are: subjective attempts to correlate available data. By contrast, I contend that the zero-sum win-lose systems are mere sophistry. By basing themselves entirely on one single datum (who won), these systems ignore other data which are at least as significant. To pretend that such systems are not arbitrary, or are not subjective, is mere sophistry. They are the most arbitrary and subjective of all rating systems.

As a side note, let me observe that one can observe the same attitude in one segment of the Vietnam debate. There are those who contend that there are only two sides of the war, "us" and "them," and that the war can only be "won" or "lost." The attitude that a Diplomacy game can only be "won" or "lost" is on the same intellectual plane.

To repeat: I am not attacking or disagreeing with Doug Beyerlein's article, which I consider to be a fine one. I am merely dealing with an attitude which is widespread and which I feel is erroneous.

In sum, in my opinion, the ODD and CPC rating systems are neither fair nor accurate in rating players. Each system refuses to deal with the actual performance of 6 of the 7 players in the game. Deliberately ignoring 6/7 of the relevant data is no virtue. Nor can any confidence be placed in results achieved by such artificially and excessively selective methods.

ARCHIVES PUBLISHERS SURVEY

Since the "Archives Trading List" hasn't been published since Hecrier Archives #52, it is about time to do it again. However, since I trade with all current publishers, I thought I would kill two birds with one stone and give you some additional information. Therefore, I have listed all publishers chronologically by the date that they began publishing without a break in publishing of more than 3 months. If any publisher had a break of more than that, I have footnoted the prior publishing periods. Although the great publishing boom of the last 2 years is reflected in the data below, it is still obvious that the attrition rate among Diplomacy publishers is something tremendous. It is a rare publisher indeed that lasts more than a couple of years. As you can see, there have been as many publishing starts in each of the last 2 years as there were in the previous 2 years. Each year only a handful of publishers are still going (prior to 1971).

1963

1. May 12 John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226

1965

2. Oct 15 John McCallum, PO Box 52, Balston, Alberta, Canada T0J 2N0
3. Nov Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Md. 20906

1966

4. Jul 5 Red Walker, 4719 Felton, San Diego, Cal. 92116
5. Jul 15 Hal Maus, 1011 Barrett Avenue, Chula Vista, Cal. 92011

1967

6. May 1 Larry Peery, 3872 Jewell Street, H-107, San Diego, Cal. 92109
7. Nov 29 Eric Just, PO. Box 131, Paoli, Okla. 73074

1968

8. Aug Robert Johnson, PO Box 134, Whippary, N.J. 07981
9. Aug 19 Larry St. Cyr, 30 Frederick Street, North Adams, Mass. 01247

1969

- 10. May 18 Len Lakofka, 4970 N. Marine Drive, Apt. 525, Chicago, Ill. 60640
- 11. Jul 2 Don Turnbull, Flat 13, Gilmerton Ct., Trumpington Rd., Cambridge, Eng. CB2 2HQ
- 12. Nov 11¹ Buddy Tretick, 11710 Goldstream Drive, Petoskey, MI. 20854
- 13. Dec Chris Schleicher, 5122 W. Carmen, Chicago, Ill. 60630
- 14. Dec Ted Halemba, 10012 Valley Blvd., Apt. 38, El Monte, Cal. 91731

1970

- 15. Jan 29 Andy Phillips, 128 Oliver Street, Daly City, Cal. 94014
- 16. Aug 27 Peter Ansoff, Box 9798, Station B, Vanderbilt U., Nashville, Tenn. 37235
- 17. Oct 23 Bob Van Andel, 749 Thomas Street SE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503
- 18. Nov Greg Warden, 4500 Walnut Street, Apt. 106, Philadelphia, Pa. 19139

1971

- 19. Jan 23 Walter Buchanan, R.R. 3, Lebanon, Indiana 46052
- 20. Feb Michael Pons, Grand Place 7, B-1080, Brussels, Belgium
- 21. Mar 20² ~~Charles F. von ...~~,, Cal. 92102
- 22. Apr 20 Lewis Pulsipher, 423 N. Main, Bellevue, Mich. 49021
- 23. Apr 27³ Mahran Thomson, Jr., 3612 E. Huron R. Drive, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
- 24. Apr Ray Bowers, 625 Evans, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122
- 25. May 10 Stephen Harland, 78 Genesee Street, Greene, N.Y. 13773
- 26. May 29 Hartley Patterson, "Finches," 7 Cambridge Rd., Beaconsfield, Bucks, England
- 27. Jul 21 Tony Pandin, 10406 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44104
- 28. Sep 1⁴ Robert Ward, 8665 Florin Road, #176, Sacramento, Cal. 95828
- 29. Sep 17⁵ Charles Welsh, 6917 Cherry Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003
- 30. Sep 22 Stephen Cooper, 3073 S. Buchanan, B-2, Arlington, Va. 22206
- 31. Sep Michael Leonard, Av. E. de Meersman, 43, B-1080, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 32. Oct 4 Bernie Anderson, Wiltshire Home, 890 Main Rd., Moseley, Natal, Rep. of S. Afr.
- 33. Oct 22 Herb Baranta, 157 State Street, Zeeland, Mich. 49464
- 34. Nov 10 Peter Weber, Raymond Weber, 138 Greenland Ave., Oconomowoc, Wis. 53066
- 35. Nov 20 Stan Wrebel, 7 Poland Village Blvd., Poland, Ohio 44514
- 36. Nov 28 Steve Konik, 356 Kinbush Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14610
- 37. Dec 3 Burton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker, #202, San Francisco, Cal. 94118
- 38. Dec James Passar, 127 N. Emerson Street, Danvers, N.Y. 12929

1972

- 39. Jan 1 Burt Iaballe, 146 Elm Street, Saco, Maine 04072
- 40. Jan 4 Mark Weidman, 528 East,, Canada
- 41. Jan 8 ~~Earl ...~~,,
- 42. Jan 31 John Pigott, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8PL, England
- 43. Jan 31 Paul Wood, 24613 Harmon Court, St. Clair Shores, Mich. 48080
- 44. Jan Fred Winter, 2625 El Rancho Drive, Brookfield, Wis. 53005
- 45. Feb 7 Edl Birman, 48-20 39th Street, Long Island City, N.Y. 11104
- 46. Feb 17 Joseph Antoniak, 3637 Arden Avenue, Brookfield, Ill. 60513
- 47. Feb Payton Turpin, 4834 Ryan Avenue, Bonita, Cal. 92002
- 48. Mar 11 John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, Pa. 17013
- 49. Mar Paul Stone, Box 485, Parkville, British Columbia, Canada
- 50. Mar Fred Davis, Jr., 5307 Carriage Court, Baltimore, Md. 21229
- 51. Apr 19 Paul Band, 221 E. Ridgewood Drive, Garland, Tex. 75041
- 52. May 15 Tas Kyrie, 1/30 New Beach Road, Davling Point, N.S.W., Australia 2027
- 53. May Joe White, 3515 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, Fla. 32601
- 54. Jun 3 Gerson Levin, EDC, 19 Broadlands Road, PO Box 4, London, England N6 4DF
- 55. Jun David Hunt, 217 E. Front Street, Adrian, Mich. 49221

FOOTNOTES: ¹Feb 2, 1968-Feb 1969

²Apr 1, 1965-Oct 15, 1966; Feb 17, 1968-Apr 15, 1969; Nov 7, 1969-Jul 23, 1970

³Uncertain if still publishing

⁴Mar 1, 1966-May 16, 1968

⁵Mar 1968-Oct 20, 1969

MISCELLANEOUS TRADERS

56. Ken Borecki, 19 Royal Road, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570
57. David Dix, 110 Minden Avenue, Oak Hill, W. Va. 25901
58. Scott Huddleston, Box 4480, Station B., Vanderbilt U., Nashville, Tenn. 37235
59. Don Lewry, ~~Spencerfaust~~, PO Box 1123, Evansville, Ind., 47713
60. George Phillips, 520B/305 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass. 02193

BEYERLEIN PLAYER POLL NO. 4
HOOSIER ARCHIVES SCOOPS EREHWONT!

TOP BOARD			SECOND BOARD		
	S	N		S	N
1. Ed Birsan (7)	261	17	8. Randy Bytwerk (1)	71	7
2. John Saythe (1)	170	13	9. Walt Buchanan	68	10
3. Tom Eller (1)	165	14	10. Conrad von Metzke	67	9
4. Red Walker (2)	164	17	11. Eugene Prosnitz	66	9
5. Doug Beyerlein (3)	160	12	12. Hal Naus	63	7
6. Brenton Ver Ploeg	131	12	13. John Beshara	63	9
7. Andy Phillips	109	15	14. John Beshara	61	6

Players with 20 points or more: Chan (1), Cordas (1), Lakofka, Lasky (1), McCallum, Melane, Peery, Pulsipher (1), Reumann, Thomson (1), Tretiak, J. White (1), and Winter (1).

Note: S means the score or total points tabulated from the ballots; N means the number of ballots listing the player's name on the top board or the second board. The number of first place votes are given in parentheses. Scoring is figures on the following basis: 20 points for 1st place, 17 for 2nd, 15 for 3rd, 13 for 4th, 11 for 5th, 9 for 6th, 8 for 7th, etc.

A total of 21 ballots were cast. Since RFP #3, John Beshara and Ed Halle have returned to active player status, Also, Charles Reinsel is still active.

The fifth poll will be conducted this coming winter. Ballots for RFP #5 will be distributed through all interested sines. All questions and comments should be sent to Doug Beyerlein, 3934 S.W. Southsea, Seattle, Washington 98136.

Ballots were received as follows: Erewhon (11), Hoosier Archives (3), Xenogolic (2), Impassable (2), and others (3).

ARCHIVES PUBLISHERS' POLL NO. 3

TOP BOARD			SECOND BOARD		
	S	N		S	N
1. Ed Birsan (5)	130	17	8. Randy Bytwerk (1)	62	7
2. John Saythe (2)	100	13	9. Hal Naus	58	7
3. Brenton Ver Ploeg	86	8	10. Randy Bytwerk (1)	54	6
4. Red Walker (1)	75	8	11. Hal Naus	41	6
5. Doug Beyerlein	69	6	12. Rick Brooks	34	6
6. Tom Eller	66	7	13. John Beshara	33	3
7. Eugene Prosnitz	64	6	14. Len Lakofka	32	5

Players with over 20 points: Peery, Pulsipher, and von Metzke. A total of 10 ballots were cast, or about 20% of those eligible. Those casting ballots were: Barents, Beyerlein, Birsan, Borecki, Buchanan, Labella, Lakofka, Turpin, Ver Ploeg, and Weber.

A few comments about this poll as compared to the last poll are in order. I won't comment on the above RFP since players and publishers seem to be seeing things alike. Ed Birsan has turned his narrow lead last time into a crushing one, perhaps due to his magnificent performance in the Grudge Game. Brenton Ver Ploeg is still 2nd; however, this may improve in the future due to many games he is on the verge of winning. There have been some minor shuffling in the rest of the top board with Tom Eller placing on it for the first time, perhaps due to several recent wins. I see I have popped onto the 2nd board from out of nowhere and no doubt it surprises you as much as me. The rest of the 2nd board is about the same except that Len Lakofka has placed on it, maybe due to voters anticipating 2 won game Len has going. Also, John Beshara has placed, reflecting his current active status. A ballot for APP #5 follows.